been put in the OGL category in the Exim Policy.

Decline in Offtake from PDS

*115 SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:
SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the offtake from the Public Distribution System has declined to about 13 million tonnes, compared to 20.8 million tonnes in 1991; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b) The offtake of rice and wheat from the Public Distribution System (PDS) was 18.7 million tonnes in 1991. In the year 1994, the total offtake of rice and wheat was around 13 million tonnes. The lower offtake of foodgrains from the PDS is due to various factors such as continued local availabitlity of foodgrains on account of high production of wheat, rice and coarse grains in three consecutive crop years since 1992-93 and the narrow gap between the PDS retail price and open market prices in many parts of the country.

Steps to Protect Interests of Rubber Growers

*116. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to allow duty free import of 50,000 tonnes of natural rubber in 1995-96;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to protect the interests of rubber growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM):

(a) to (c) Since early 1995, persistent reports were received by the govt. of a gap between demand and supply of nature rubber in the domestic market leading to depletion of stocks. Moreover, there was a steep increase in prices reaching an all time high at Rs.6,550 per quintal for RSS-IV in mid-June, 1995 as compared to Rs.2,851 per quintal in June, 1994. After considering all relevant factors and the view points of all concerned including Rubber Board. growers and user industries, Govt. permitted import of 38,450 tonnes of natural rubber by 31-8-95 to ensure edequate availability and to stabilise the domestic market during the current lean season.

To protect the interest of Rubber Growers, Rubber Board has been implementing successfully various development and R & D schemes to increase production and productivity of rubber in order to minimise the need for import.

Foreign Exchange Earned Through Export of Consultancy Services

*117. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI:
SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total foreign exchange earned through export of consultancy services during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the consultancy services operating under public and private sectors in the country are facing crisis due to foreign consultatns in each of the foreign aided projects;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether a conference on the development of consultancy trade in the developing countries was organised by the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation in Geneva;

(e) if so, the details of main recommendations made therein; and

(f) the reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) Foreign Exchange earnings from export of consultancy services.

(in Rs. crores)

Year	Foreign Exchange Earned
1992-93	831
1993-94	1369
1994-95	1700 (Estimated)

Source: FIEO

The above figures indicate a steady rise in export of consultancy services.

(d) and (e) A Global Preparatory Meeting for the Consultation of Consultancy Enginering Services was organised by the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) at Geneva from June 20-22, 1994. The meeting recommended measures to ameliorate constraints in the development of consulting engineering services in developing countries, through national governments, national consultncy promotion agencies, and international bodies. The recommendations pertained to regulation of consulting engineering services at national level, skill upgradation of consultants, acceptance of local consultants as lead consultants and their greater participation in multilateral funded projects, and encouraging local consultants in technology transfer as well as their interaction with R & D organisations.

(f) The recommendations of the meeting appear to be relevant and useful for the development of consultancy capabilities at national level for domestic as well as export markets, and will be implemented to the extent possible by the Government. Strong consultancy capabilities will help in accelerating our technological and industrial development.

निर्यात प्रसंस्करण जोन

*118. **श्री राम जेठमलानी:**
श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज:

क्या **वाणिज्य** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि देश में अनेक स्थानों पर निर्यात प्रसंस्करण जोन्स (एक्सपोर्ट प्रोसेसिंग जोनों) की स्थापना की गई है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो देश में ऐसे कुल कितने जोनों की स्थापना की गई है तथा इन जोनों में कुल कितनी औद्योगिक इकाइयां कार्यरत हैं;

(ग) क्या देश से निर्यात बढ़ाने के लिए इन इकाइयों को अनेक सुविधाएं दी गई हैं;

(घ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ङ) क्या यह भी सच है कि इन सभी औद्योगिक इकाइयों द्वारा वर्ष 1994-95 में 820 करोड़ रुपये के लगभग विदेशी मुद्रा अर्जित की गई है जो देश के कुल निर्यात का केवल 3.2 प्रतिशत ही है; और

(च) यदि नहीं, तो इस संबंध में तथ्य क्या है?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री पी० चिदम्बरम): (क) जी, हां।

(ख) सरकार ने अभी तक ज्ञात निर्यात प्रसंस्करण जोनों (ई पी जेडल) की स्थापना की है तथा इन जोनों में 502 औद्योगिक इकाइयां कार्यरत हैं;

(ग) और (घ) ई०पी० जेडल की इकाइयों को दिए गए मुख्य प्रोत्साहनों में शामिल है- पूंजीगत माल, कच्चे माल, उपभोज्य वस्तुओं तथा अतिरिक्त पुरजों का शुल्क मुक्त आयात, देश के अन्दर खरीदी गई वस्तुओं पर उत्पाद शुल्क से छूट तथा पांच वर्षों के लिए निगम कर से छूट।

(ङ) और (च) ई पी जेडल में स्थित औद्योगिक इकाइयों द्वारा 1994-95 के दौरान 2653.11 करोड़ रु० का निर्यात किया गया जो कि देश से किए गए कुल निर्यात का 3.22% बैठता है।

Employment Assurance Scheme

*119. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared any action plan for the implementation of Employment Assurance Scheme